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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

1. In my report to the Security Council dated 28 July 1994 (S/1994/893), I informed members of the Council of my decision to suspend preparations for the third round of inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad in view of the lack of progress in the implementation of the necessary confidence-building measures by the Tajik Government. In the following weeks, the Government adopted a number of important measures, including an amnesty decree, the release of some opposition members from a list of 29 submitted by the opposition delegation, upgrading the level of the Government delegation at the negotiations, and the postponement of the presidential election and referendum. I interpreted these actions to be a demonstration of the Government's commitment to resolve the conflict through political dialogue.

2. I accordingly instructed Mr. Ramiro Píriz-Ballón, my Special Envoy for Tajikistan, to undertake consultations with the Tajik parties and certain Governments in the region with a view to arranging the next round of inter-Tajik talks. On 7 September 1994 in Islamabad my Special Envoy reported to me the outcome of the consultations which he had had with the representatives of the Tajik opposition in Moscow on 4 September 1994 and with the leaders of the Tajik Government in Dushanbe on 6 September 1994. As a result of those meetings, the two sides had agreed to hold high-level consultations in Tehran with a view to discussing the prospects for a third round of inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad. The idea of such consultations had also been strongly supported by the Governments of the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

I. TEHRAN HIGH-LEVEL INTER-TAJIK CONSULTATIONS

3. From 12 to 17 September 1994, the consultations were held at Tehran under United Nations auspices. The delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan was headed by Mr. A. Dostiev, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan. The delegation of the other side was led by Mr. A. Turajonzodah, head of the delegation of the Tajik opposition. Talks were also held with Mr. A. Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan. During the consultations, my Special Envoy served as mediator. High-ranking representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and the Russian Federation facilitated the consultations.

4. The consultations, which were held in a frank and constructive atmosphere, enabled the parties to sign an Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks (see annex I to the present report). The two sides stated that the Agreement constituted only a first step towards the achievement of national reconciliation and the settlement of all issues included in the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks.

5. The two sides agreed to halt, on a temporary basis, hostile acts on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the country. The concept of "cessation of hostilities", which includes the military and non-military aspects of this definition, and which was worked out in detail during the second round of talks in Tehran in June 1994, was incorporated into the signed Agreement.

6. With a view to building confidence, the parties also agreed that within one month following the signing of the Agreement:

(a) The authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan would release those opposition members who had been arrested and sentenced, in conformity with the list provided by the opposition;

(b) The Tajik opposition would release their prisoners of war in conformity with the list annexed to the Agreement.

7. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement, the two sides agreed to establish a Joint Commission consisting of representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition. This Commission will be the main element of the mechanism to monitor the Agreement. The parties requested the Security Council to assist the work of the Commission by providing political good offices and dispatching United Nations military observers to the conflict areas. It was agreed by the Tajik parties that the Agreement would enter into force as soon as United Nations observers were deployed in Tajikistan.

8. During the high-level consultations, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to resolve the conflict through political dialogue and agreed in a Joint Communiqué (see annex II) to hold the next round of inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad in the middle of October 1994, when they would continue their efforts to achieve national reconciliation and to settle all the outstanding political issues on the agenda of the inter-Tajik talks.

II. OBSERVATIONS

9. I believe that the signing of the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks is an important step towards national reconciliation and the restoration of peace in Tajikistan.

10. In these circumstances, it is my intention to extend the current mandate of my Special Envoy, which expires at the end of September 1994, for another four months until the end of January 1995.

11. In view of the encouraging progress achieved during the high-level consultations in Tehran, in particular the signing of the Agreement and the request of the Tajik parties that United Nations military observers be dispatched to the areas of conflict, I recommend that the mandate of the small group of United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan should also be extended for a further period of four months and that, as a provisional measure, it be strengthened with up to 15 military observers drawn from existing peace-keeping operations, pending a decision by the Security Council to establish a new United Nations observer mission in Tajikistan.

12. Meanwhile, I have decided to send a technical mission to Tajikistan immediately to assess the modalities for establishing a future observer mission. Therefore I will submit to the Council as soon as possible my recommendations, with preliminary cost estimates.

13. I am receiving encouraging reports from the United Nations officials currently in Tajikistan on positive changes in the atmosphere in the country after the signing of the Agreement. This is essential for mutual confidence-building. However, there are also alarming reports of attempts by each side to bring as much territory as possible under its control before the Agreement comes into force. I appeal to the parties to exercise maximum mutual restraint during the short period before the Agreement enters into force with the arrival of the United Nations observers.

Annex I

Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks

The delegations of the leaders of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"), in the course of the consultations on national reconciliation held in Tehran from 12 to 17 September 1994 under United Nations auspices, as a major step towards a global political settlement of the conflict, national reconciliation and the solution of the problem of refugees, the constitutional system and the consolidation of the statehood of the independent and sovereign Republic of Tajikistan, have agreed:

1. To halt, on a temporary basis, hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the country.

2. The Parties have agreed that the concept of "cessation of hostilities" shall include the following:

(a) The cessation by the Parties of all military activities, including all violations of the Tajik-Afghan border, offensive operations within the country, the shelling of adjacent territories, the conduct of all forms of military training, the redeployment of regular and irregular military formations in Tajikistan, which might result in the breakdown of this Agreement;

Note: The Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Russian troops in Tajikistan shall carry out their duties in keeping with the principle of neutrality, which is part of their mandate, and shall cooperate with United Nations military observers.

(b) The cessation by the Parties of acts of terrorism and sabotage on the Tajik-Afghan border, within the Republic and in other countries;

(c) The prevention by the Parties of murders, the taking of hostages, unlawful arrest and detention, and acts of pillage against the civilian population and servicemen in the Republic and other countries;

(d) The prevention of blockades of populated areas, national economic and military installations and of all means of communication;

(e) The cessation of the use of all forms of communication and mass media to undermine the process of national reconciliation;

(f) The Parties shall refrain from using religion and the religious feelings of believers, as well as any ideology, for hostile purposes.

3. The Parties have agreed to a temporary cease-fire and the cessation of other hostile acts on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the country until the referendum on the draft of the new constitution and the election of the

president of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the understanding that this is only a first step towards the achievement of national harmony and the settlement of all issues included in the agenda of the talks.

4. With a view to building confidence, the Parties have agreed that, within one month following the signing of this Agreement:

(a) The authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan shall release those who have been arrested and sentenced, in conformity with the list annexed hereto;

(b) The Tajik opposition shall release the prisoners of war in conformity with the list annexed hereto.

5. With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of this Agreement, the Parties have agreed to establish a Joint Commission consisting of representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition. The Parties request the Security Council of the United Nations to assist the work of the Commission by providing political mediation services and dispatching United Nations military observers to the areas of conflict.

6. This Agreement was signed at Tehran on 17 September 1994 and shall enter into force as soon as United Nations observers are deployed in Tajikistan.

Head of the delegation
of the Republic of Tajikistan:

A. DOSTIEV

Head of the delegation
of the Tajik opposition:

A. TURAJONZODAH

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations:

R. PÍRIZ-BALLÓN

Annex II

Joint communiqué on the outcome of the high-level inter-Tajik consultations on national reconciliation

Tehran, 17 September 1994

From 12 to 17 September 1994, high-level inter-Tajik consultations were held at Tehran under United Nations auspices. The delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan was headed by Mr. A. Dostiev, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Tajikistan. The delegation of the opposition was headed by Mr. A. Turajonzodah, head of the delegation of the Tajik opposition. Talks were also held with Mr. A. Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan. During the consultations, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ambassador R. Píriz-Ballón, served as mediator.

The consultations were held in a frank and businesslike atmosphere, which demonstrated the desire of the parties to solve the problems facing them in a constructive spirit and enabled them to sign the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country for the Duration of the Talks until the referendum on the draft of the new constitution and the election of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the understanding that that was only a first step towards the achievement of national harmony and the settlement of all issues included in the agenda of the talks.

The parties also agreed on mutual confidence-building measures, including the release, within one month following the signing of the Agreement, of members of the opposition who were currently being held in detention centres, and of prisoners of war of the Republic of Tajikistan, in conformity with existing lists.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. R. Píriz-Ballón, called upon the parties to exercise mutual restraint during the period following the signing of the Agreement and before its entry into force.

The parties reasserted their firm commitment to the use of political means in the solution of the conflict. In this regard, they agreed to hold the next round of talks in the first half of October in Islamabad, during which they would continue their efforts to achieve national harmony and to settle all the issues included in the agenda of the talks.

The parties expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its hospitality and assistance in organizing and conducting the consultations in Tehran. They also expressed their thanks to the representatives of the Russian Federation and Pakistan for their assistance in the conduct of the high-level consultations.

The parties expressed their appreciation to the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. R. Píriz-Ballón, for his help and assistance in the organization of the inter-Tajik consultations.

A. DOSTIEV

Head of the delegation
of the Republic of Tajikistan

A. TURAJONZODAH

Head of the delegation
of the Tajik opposition

R. PÍRIZ-BALLÓN

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations